Hoarding of petro-products

1675. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of consumers across the country continue to face severe supply crunch of petroleum products leading to artificial shortage and hoarding in small cities and rural India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no shortage of petrol and diesel in the country. Government had received some complaints/reports about the non-availability of diesel in some States in the period from July to October, 2008. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) reported that sporadic incidence of non-availability was due to a surge in demand for diesel for power generation in these States. However, the demand of all sectors including Agriculture and transport sector is fully met.

OMCs have been directed to take urgent steps to ensure adequate supply and availability of Diesel and Petrol at the Retail Outlets (ROs) across the country. OMCs have also been directed to take all necessary steps to build sufficient stocks of petroleum products at different locations in the country to take care of any unforeseen contingency including any temporary disruption in the movement of petroleum products.

OMCs have reported that they ensure the availability of petrol and diesel in the country at all times and are supplying petrol and diesel to the ROs as per indents. OMCs have also reported that they have not restricted/curtailed supply of petrol and diesel to their ROs any where in the country.

Dues of private airlines towards oil companies

1676. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the dues from Jet Airlines and other private airlines towards purchase of fuel for their aircrafts as on 31 March, 2008;

(b) what is the rule or legal provision under which fuel was given on credit basis to private airlines;

(c) whether above facilities of credit are given to other consumers including retail outlet operators, which are doing service to the company by marketing the product; and

(d) what steps are taken by his Ministry for cent per cent recovery of the dues of the various private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) have informed that Jet Airways and other private airlines collectively owed Rs. 635.35 crore as on 31st March, 2008 on account of purchase of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

(b) Credit facility was extended to the private airlines, based on commercial agreements entered into with them by the OMCs.

(c) The credit facilities are given to other consumers on case to case basis subject to commercial negotiations by the OMCs. As a general practice, the OMCs do not give credit facility to the Retail Outlet dealers. However, if considered necessary, in exceptional situations, credit facility is extended by the OMCs to the retail Retail Outlet dealers for a period of 3 to 5 days against collateral security.

(d) An inter-ministerial meeting was held in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on 22.10.2008, in which the officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Finance, OMCs and representatives of the domestic airlines etc. were present. The adverse financial position of the civil aviation sector was discussed and it was decided that in order to enable the domestic airlines to clear their dues as on 21st October, 2008 the airlines *inter alia,* would be allowed to clear their outstanding dues in six equated monthly instalments, latest by 31-3-2009.

Tourism projects in Maharashtra

1677. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal for certain tourism projects to the Central Government for approval and sanction; and

(b) if so, the total number of projects which have been cleared and the number of projects which have not been cleared yet?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The development and promotion of places of tourist interest is undertaken primarily by the State Governments themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments under various schemes.

During 2008-09, the following proposals have been received from the Government of Maharashtra:

(1) Pune Festival 2008

(2) Mega Shopping Festival at Aurangabad

(3) Destination development of Toranmal, District Nandurbar

(4) Major Circuit Development for the Vidarbha Region

(5) Major Circuit Development for the Marathwada Region

(6) Major Circuit Development for Heritage Corridor for Aurangabad

(7) Major Circuit Development for Elephanta

The project proposals, which are complete as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se-priority* basis and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head.

During the 10th Five Year Plan period, projects worth Rs.8267.75 lakh have been sanctioned to the State of Maharashtra. Similarly during 2007-08 an amount of Rs. 1279.24 lakh has been sanctioned for development of tourism in Maharashtra.